

University of New Hampshire
University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository

Honors Theses and Capstones

Student Scholarship

Spring 2018

Social Work Education and Mental Health Stigma

Dana K. Prisloe

University of New Hampshire, Durham, dkp2000@wildcats.unh.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholars.unh.edu/honors>



Part of the [Social Work Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Prisloe, Dana K., "Social Work Education and Mental Health Stigma" (2018). *Honors Theses and Capstones*. 402.
<https://scholars.unh.edu/honors/402>

This Senior Honors Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Scholarship at University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Honors Theses and Capstones by an authorized administrator of University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. For more information, please contact nicole.hentz@unh.edu.

Social Work Education and Mental Health Stigma

Dana K. Prisloe

Honors Thesis

University of New Hampshire

Social Work Education and Mental Health Stigma

Abstract

Mental illness is a stigmatized condition, manifested through negative stereotypes, prejudices, and discrimination against individuals with a mental illness. The current study surveyed undergraduate and graduate social work students to understand whether there was a correlation between education and stigma, and intimate relationships and stigma. Results demonstrated that taking a class with a mental illness focus reduces desire for social distance. Additionally, contact with people with MI is likely to reduce desire for social distance and stereotyped beliefs. Intimate, casual relationships (specifically family members) result in lower stigma. Results provide support for including education and contact in anti-stigma strategies, which should be used by mental health professionals such as social workers.